

## Small Groups @ TBC Sermon Discussion Notes

**Date of Sermon:** September 6<sup>th</sup> 2018

**Speaker:** David Lawrence

**Title:** Meet the Corinthians

**Introduction:** This talk gave an overview of the book of Corinthians, as a way of getting into the series that we will follow through to Christmas. During the talk we watched the overview of Corinthians created by The Bible Project. You can find the video on YouTube here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=1&v=yiHf8klCCc4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=yiHf8klCCc4). If some or all of your small group missed the service, watching this video together would be an excellent way of starting the series together.

**Review:** Invite one or more who have heard the talk to give their own brief review.

**Read:** 1 Corinthians 1:1-17; 3:1-9

**Reflect :**

- Verse 1 is more than an introduction. Paul establishes his credentials in writing to the Corinthians.
  - How does he introduce himself and what is the significance of the words that he chooses.
- Paul had a very clear idea of who he was (Paul), *whose* he was (God's) and *why* he existed (to be an apostle = one sent out to declare the good news of Jesus and establish churches).
  - If you were to think of those three words (who, whose and why) how would you have started the letter? 'Who' and 'whose' might be easy, but encourage people to think about 'why' God has called them and how their unique gifts and experience can be used to serve God's purpose, just as Paul's were. (To be clear, we're not seeking out 'spiritual' callings here e.g. how I serve in the church, but our 'frontline' callings and how they can be seen as part of God's call on our lives, just as being an apostle was God's call for Paul).
- In verse 2 Paul describes the Corinthians as those who have been 'sanctified' (= made holy, or 'set apart' for God) and those who are called to be holy.
  - What do the group understand 'being holy' means in our culture today?
  - How does 1 Peter 1:13-15 help us understand more about growing into our holy status?

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**Leaders:** feel free to be selective and creative with your use of these notes.

**Don't feel you have to use all of the material,** but do try to keep the shape of Review – Read – Reflect – Respond and **DO make room for the 'And Finally' questions!**

## Thornbury Baptist Church:

Following the Way of Jesus: Loving God - Loving One Another - Loving Neighbour & World

- In verse 5 Paul reminds the Corinthians that in Jesus, they have been “enriched in every way”.
  - How do people in the group feel that knowing Jesus has enriched their lives?
- In verses 10-14 Paul describes divisions in the church over the popularity (or lack of it) of different leaders in the church. Read more about this issue in Chapter 3:1-9.
  - What harm does this kind of personality cult do to the church?
  - How do you think the problem arises?
  - How can it be guarded against: what can individuals do, and what can leaders do (or not do) to ensure it doesn't happen?

(You may like to draw toward a close by thanking God for those who lead in various ways in the TBC family).

### And finally:

As you conclude, ask each person:

- What is the main thing you are taking away as an action point?
- How can we pray for you?
- Is there anything we can check on next time we meet?

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